



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,475	12/20/2001	Koji Ito		3623

23400 7590 07/14/2003  
POSZ & BETHARDS, PLC  
11250 ROGER BACON DRIVE  
SUITE 10  
RESTON, VA 20190

EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3679

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,475

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 4, 6 and 13-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 in Paper No. 10 is acknowledged.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the stopper and diametrical expansion projection must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

The incorporation of essential material in the specification by reference to a foreign application or patent, or to a publication is improper. Applicant is required to amend the disclosure to include the material incorporated by reference. The amendment must be accompanied by an affidavit or declaration executed by the applicant, or a practitioner representing the applicant, stating that the amendatory material consists of the same material incorporated by reference in the referencing application. See *In re Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 569, 179 USPQ 157 (CCPA 1973); *In re Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 579, 179 USPQ 163 (CCPA 1973); and *In re Hawkins*, 486 F.2d 577, 179 USPQ 167 (CCPA 1973).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

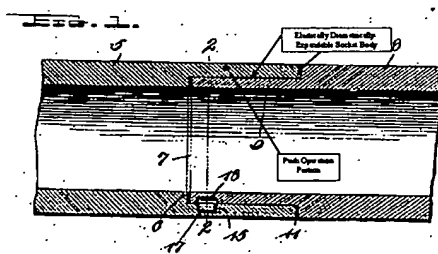
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

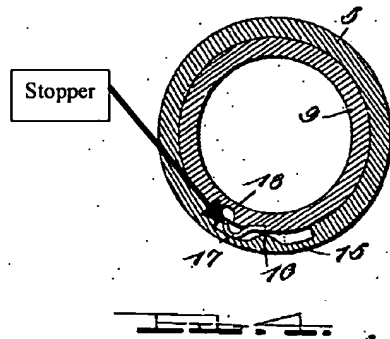
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 1033187, Metzger.

In regards to claim 1, in figure 1 below, Metzger discloses a hose coupling assembly comprising a fitting member (8) including a passage portion having a receiving passage, and a first engagement catch (17) projecting outwardly from an open peripheral end of the passage portion; and a socket (5) having an elastically diametrically-expandable socket body (the end of 5), a second engagement catch (12, 13, 14), formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement catch, and a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body.



In regards to claim 5, in figure 4 below, Metzger discloses the fitting member comprising a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting



member.

In regards to claim 7, in figure 1 above, Metzger discloses the socket comprising a push operation portion.

In regards to claim 8, Metzger discloses the fitting member comprising a diametrical expansion projection (16).

In regards to claim 9, Metzger discloses the socket body comprising a guide for guiding the diametrical expansion projection.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US patent 6026433, Bloomer.

In regards to claim 1, in figure 2, Bloomer discloses a hose coupling assembly a fitting member including a passage portion having a receiving passage, and a first engagement catch projecting outwardly from an open peripheral end of the passage

Art Unit: 3679

portion; and a socket having an elastically diametrically-expandable socket body, a second engagement catch, formed on the socket body, for engaging the first engagement catch, and a socket fitting portion, formed on an opening of the socket body; wherein the socket is formed such that the connecting of the hose with the external passage with a tight seal is achieved by pressing the socket attached to the corrugated portion toward the fitting member to engage the second engagement catch with the first engagement catch, and the disengaging of the second engagement catch from the first engagement catch is achieved by expanding a diameter of the socket body.

In regards to claim 2, in figure 2, Bloomer discloses the socket body having a slit across the entirety of a length of the socket to provide C-shaped cross section.

In regards to claim 5, in figure 2, Bloomer discloses the fitting member comprising a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

In regards to claim 7, in figure 2, Bloomer the socket comprising a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

In regards to claim 8, in figure 2, Bloomer the fitting member comprising a diametrical expansion projection for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

In regards to claim 9, in figure 2, Bloomer the socket body comprising a guide for guiding the diametrical expansion projection.

Art Unit: 3679

In regards to claim 10, in figure 2, Bloomer the fitting member comprising a stopper for limiting rotation of the socket body relative to the fitting member.

In regards to claim 11, in figure 2, Bloomer the fitting member comprising a riser for causing the socket body to expand due to rotation of the socket.

In regards to claim 12, in figure 2, Bloomer the socket comprising a push operation portion for applying force to a rim of the socket body to expand a diameter of the socket body due to the force.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the current state of the art.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is (703) 306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday between 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

am  
July 3, 2003

  
**ERIC R. NICHOLSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**Lynne H. Browne**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 3670**